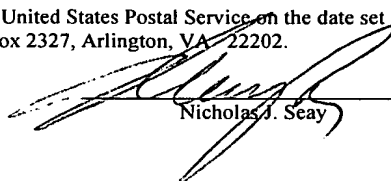


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P O Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

Date of Signature and Deposit: April 3, 2002

  
Nicholas J. Seay

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James A. Thomson

Date: April 3, 2002

Serial No.: 09/522,030

Group Art Unit: 1632

Filed: 03/09/2000

Examiner: J. Voitach

For: SERUM FREE CULTIVATION OF PRIMATE  
EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS

File No.: 960296.96544

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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RESPONSE

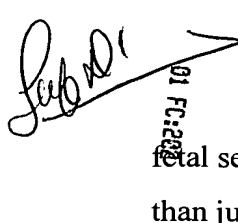
Commissioner For Patents  
P O Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to an Office Action dated October 3, 2001 in the file of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

<sup>1E 1E</sup>  
Please amend Claims 1 and 14, withdraw Claims 15 and 16, and add new Claim 17 as follows:

  
1. (Amended) A method of culturing primate embryonic stem cells, comprising:  
culturing the primate embryonic stem cells in a culture essentially free of mammalian fetal serum and in the presence of fibroblast growth factor that is supplied from a source other than just a fibroblast feeder layer.

The method of claim 1, wherein the culture is essentially free of any animal

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the culture also comprises a fibroblast feeder

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